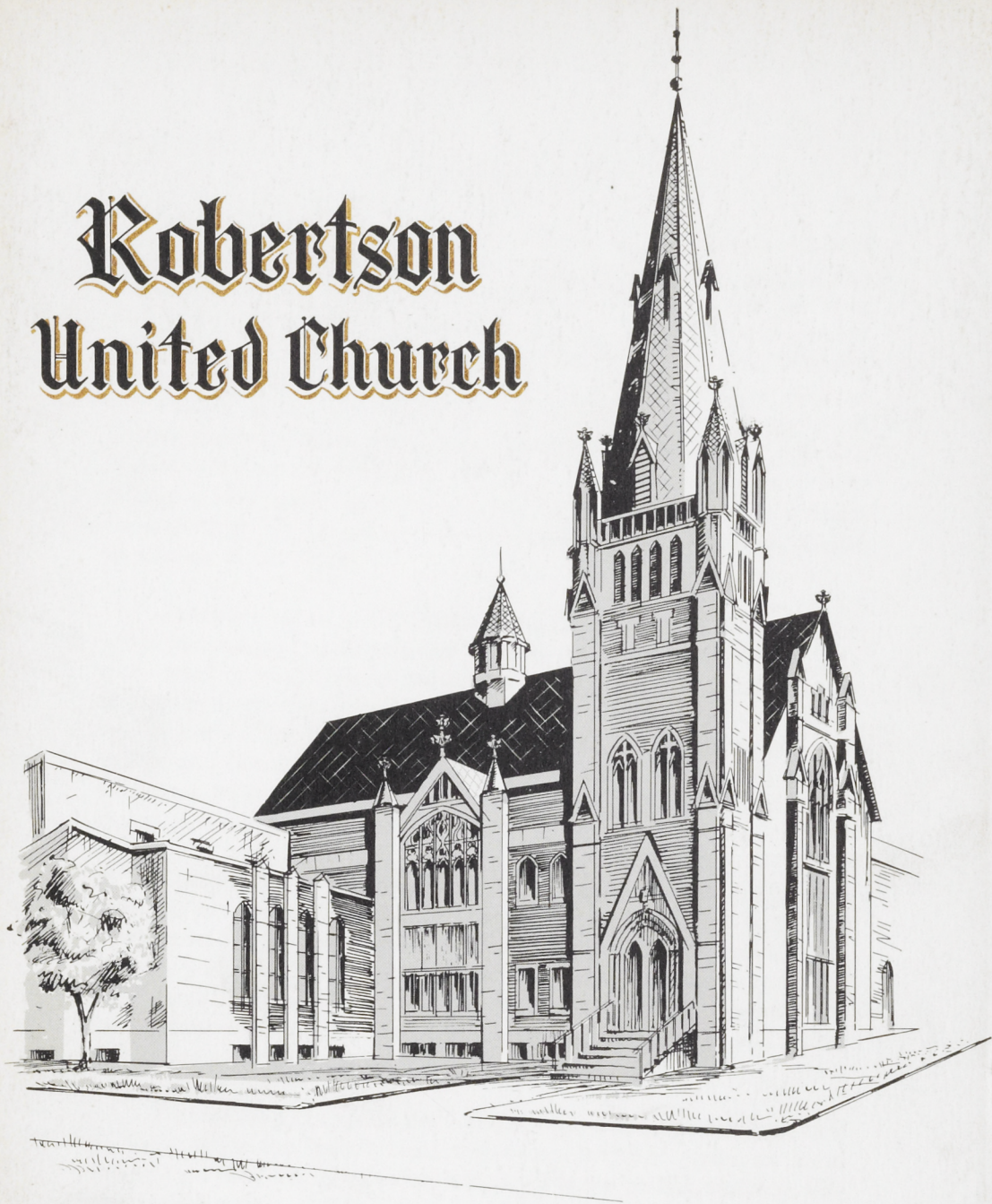


Robertson United Church



Golden Anniversary + 1959

FOREWORD

This is written while I am preparing to leave Robertson Church after being its Minister for seven years, and already you of the Congregation are preparing to welcome a new Minister in your midst. As I think of this it seems to me that perhaps nothing could symbolize the on-going work of the Church better. One Ministry closes in the fiftieth year and another Ministry begins and so the Church goes on in fulfilling its great purpose. "There is no halting place for those who follow the King of Kings." How true this is and even as we rejoice in the story which these pages unfold, telling of the goodness of God and of the leading of His Spirit through fifty years, so we look forward in expectation of the challenge of the future.

Robertson is a great Church, bearing the name of one of the great Missionary statesmen and founder of the west. Well may one ask—what is the index of greatness in a Church? It is not size, or numbers, or physical equipment, or financial power. "Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit saith the Lord." In its emphasis upon youth and families, in its missionary out-reach, in its spirit of true Christian fellowship one finds the marks of the leading of God's Spirit in Robertson Church.

These are the things which have made me so proud and thankful to be your Minister for the past seven years. I would have been most happy had I been left to remain with you indefinitely. Indeed, while we look forward to our new work, our hearts are filled with some disappointment that we will not be going forward with you. I am confident that Robertson will become greater still in the fulfillment of God's will.

To him who succeeds me I could wish nothing finer than that he may have the loyalty and friendship lavished upon us as a family and also the satisfaction which we have had in working with you of Robertson.

R. D. Smith

A MESSAGE FROM THE MINISTER

Edmonton, Alberta

September 8th, 1959

Dear Friends:

"You shall remember all the way which the Lord your God has led you." . . . So spoke Moses to the people of Israel as they looked back on their long journey toward the Promised Land. They remembered God's mighty deliverance from their bondage in Egypt, the miraculous crossing of the Red Sea, and God's constant guidance in the wilderness. Truly God had blessed them!

Truly, God has blessed us, too! As we look back on fifty years of pilgrimage, we realize the many reasons for praising God—for the vision He gave the founders of this great Congregation, for the perseverance He gave in those first struggling years, for the faithfulness He gave in the trying years of the depression, for the witness He made through the hundreds of people, young and old, who came to worship and to learn, and who departed to testify and serve.

But the command of Moses was not merely to remember. His commandment is also: "That you may live and multiply, and go in and possess the land which the Lord swore to give your fathers." (Deut. 8 : 1.) Gratitude for the past must lead to present and future action. This is not merely a day for grateful reminiscence: it is much more a day for new growth and achievement. A Promised Land with its opportunities and responsibilities beckons us onward to new conquests.

As a newcomer to Robertson Church I am impressed with the tremendous power of which the Congregation is capable. We have the Membership, we have the facilities, we have the resources. May God now possess us, and use us to His honour and Glory. And so may the glory of the past be caught up and magnified in the greater achievement of the future.

Yours in His service,

Clifford A. S. Elliott.



HARRY S. CRAIG

REV. JAMES ROBERTSON, D.D.

1839 - 1902

James Robertson was a graduate of the University of Toronto, Princeton University and Union Theological Seminary, New York. After serving as pastor of Norwich, Ontario from 1869 to 1874 he became the first pastor of Knox Presbyterian Church, Winnipeg from 1874 to 1881. On June 21, 1881 Dr. Robertson advised that he was leaving Knox to become the superintendent of all Presbyterian mission operations for Manitoba and the Northwest Territories.

In the autumn of 1883 Dr. Robertson paid his first visit to Edmonton. He travelled by rail to Calgary where Colonel Walker of the Mounted Police loaned his team and buckboard to Dr. Robertson for the drive to Edmonton. Such was the introduction of Dr. Robertson to Edmonton.

During his term as superintendent of Presbyterian missions in Western Canada he worked and spent himself in tireless labors for the spiritual welfare of this vast region. In that period of great development in the Canadian West the Home Mission work expanded with unparalleled rapidity. The one Presbytery of 1881 with four congregations and eighteen Missions developed into eighteen Presbyteries and 141 congregations and 226 Missions and giving service at 1130 points.

Robertson United Church is proud to bear the name of this great missionary.

THE BEGINNING OF ROBERTSON

On December 17, 1908 a special meeting of the congregation of First Presbyterian Church was held to discuss church extension in the west end of the city. The outcome of the meeting was the appointing of a committee consisting of: H. W. B. Douglas, W. J. Webster, Dr. R. B. Wells, Henry Gilbert, John Killen and Rev. Stevenson who was assistant pastor at First Church, to take up the matter with the Presbyterian residents of that part of the city and ascertain their views, and what support they would be willing to give a new church, if established.

The committee reported to the Annual Meeting of the Congregation held on January 20, 1909 that its members had received a cordial reception from those called upon, that an enthusiastic desire existed for the organization of such a new congregation and that \$1,100 had been promised towards a building fund and \$900 towards maintenance. Thus it was decided to proceed with the undertaking.

Early in 1909 a committee interviewed the Board of Management of First Presbyterian Church. The committee was informed that no financial assistance could be expected. Permission to canvass the individual members of First Presbyterian Church was given to the committee.

Early in October, 1909 three lots on the northwest corner of 116th Street and Jasper Avenue were purchased as a site for the new church. Subsequently plans were obtained, tenders called for the erection of the new church with a seating capacity of 400. The contract was awarded to Mr. A. McSporran at a cost of \$5,200.

On November 8, 1909 the name of Knox was decided upon for the new congregation, but on March 10, 1910 it was agreed to change the name to Robertson in memory of Rev. James Robertson, D.D.

At its own request the congregation was constituted a self-sustaining congregation. Rev. Dr. J. E. Duclos, then pastor of Erskine Presbyterian Church was appointed interim moderator. The first congregational meeting of Robertson Church was held in First Presbyterian Church on December 16, 1909. The second one was held in the new church building on March 10, 1910.

The formal opening took place on Sunday, February 20, 1910. The morning service was conducted by Rev. Dr. D. G. McQueen and the evening service by Rev. Dr. J. E. Duclos.

Thus came into existence Edmonton's fourth Presbyterian Congregation.



REV. RUPERT GREGG STEWART, D.D.

Rupert Gregg Stewart was born in Owen Sound, April 19, 1877. In 1882 his family moved to Hamiota, Manitoba. He was schooled largely at home by his mother until college age. He attended Manitoba College in Brandon and McGill University, Montreal. In 1908 he graduated from the Presbyterian College in Montreal.

From his first charge at Kenton, Manitoba, he was called to Robertson in 1910 and served it until April, 1919. He showed great energy and leadership in meeting the problems of his day and well deserved the honor of laying the cornerstone of the present church on July 1, 1913.

Associated with Dr. Stewart in the opening services of the new church on January 25, 1914, and during the following week as special speaker was Rev. Robert Johnson, D.D., of Montreal. Others were Rev. Dr. McQueen, Rev. Professor Bland, and Rev. W. N. McLachlan.

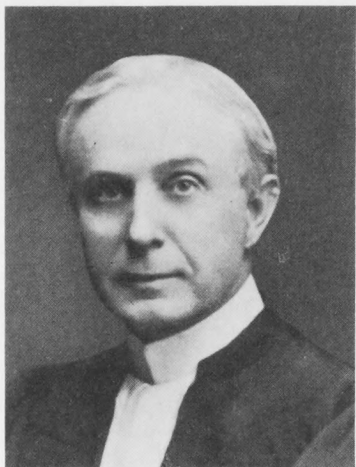
Due to illness he moved to the west coast for two years. He then served in Neepawa, Belleville, and lastly from 1928 to 1948 at St. John's Presbyterian Church in Toronto. He died at Sturgeon Point, Ontario, August, 1958.



REV. HENRY DICKIE, D.D.

Henry Dickie was born November 15, 1862 in Upper Stewiache, Nova Scotia. After graduating from Dalhousie University, Halifax, and Princeton Theological Seminary in New York he did post-graduate work in Edinburgh, Heidelberg and Paris.

Following successful pastorates at Summerside, P.E.I.; Windsor, Woodstock and Chatham in Ontario, he gave faithful service to Robertson in a difficult period from August, 1920 to September, 1924. His kindly sympathy endeared him to all his parishioners. From Robertson he was called to Georgetown and then to Elora, Ontario. He died May 12, 1944.



REV. THOMAS H. MITCHELL, D.D.

He was formerly pastor of New St. James's Presbyterian Church, London, of Old St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Toronto, and of a pastorate in Barre, Vermont. He came to Robertson Presbyterian Church in 1919 as stated supply after Dr. Stewart resigned and prior to the induction of Dr. Dickie in 1920. Having received a call from St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Westminster, B.C. which he felt he should accept he left Edmonton to become pastor of that congregation.

Rev. Mr. Mitchell returned to Robertson as its pastor November 2, 1924, and continued in this post until June, 1931. He received an Honorary Doctor of Divinity degree from St. Stephen's College in 1928, and in 1931 was appointed to the John M. Millar Chair in Practical Theology and Homelitics at St. Stephen's, Edmonton. This post he held until he retired in 1935 to Stouffville, Ontario. He died in 1945.

He organized his congregation into fifteen districts and planned for a cottage meeting to be held in each district each month. An elder, a manager, a representative of the W.M.S. and one from the Sunday School formed a committee in charge of each district.

His successor, Dr. H. A. McLeod, said of him: "His preaching was marked by a classical beauty of expression, profound but with a simple lucidity. In the pulpit, clad in his Geneva gown, he seemed to tower and to become a radiant and majestic presence in the line of the prophets."



REV. DR. H. A. McLEOD

H. A. McLeod was born at Owen Sound, the son of a Great Lakes captain. His university studies were broken by his service in the Royal Engineers. In 1920 he received his M.A. from Queen's with honours in Political Economy and Literature. He graduated from Knox College, Toronto, in September, 1920, and received his B.D. from Manitoba in 1922, and his D.D. from Queen's in 1943.

After serving at Medicine Hat and Saskatoon he was called to Robertson in November, 1931. His Robertson pastorate was through the depth of the depression and his friendliness and heartfelt interest in the welfare of all his parishioners did much to hold his congregation together during that period.

His pastorate might be described as one in which there was a quiet strengthening of the congregation's spirit after the almost overwhelming financial crisis and the depressing effect of the war's aftermath. It was strengthening itself before going on into a great period of expansion.

His ministry was enhanced by the support given so cheerfully and ably by Mrs. McLeod who found time to do secretarial work for her husband and to work with the women in forming the various circles of the Woman's Association.

Dr. McLeod frequently made classical and poetical references in his sermons. Oft times it was difficult to distinguish where the quotation stopped and his own choice and apt language began.

In 1938 he accepted a call to First United Church, Victoria. While there he served as President of the British Columbia Conference in 1948, and in 1954 while minister of Knox United Church, Winnipeg, served as President of the Manitoba Conference.



REV. JAMES GORDON BROWN

James Gordon Brown was born in Leeds County, Ontario, in 1909. After winning his B.A. with honours at Queen's University in 1928 he went on to take his professional course at Queen's Theological College. He then pursued post-graduate studies at Edinburgh and Oxford. Following this he preached for a year in Edinburgh and then became Assistant Minister at Erskine American United Church, Montreal. From there he was called by Robertson and was inducted November 4, 1938.

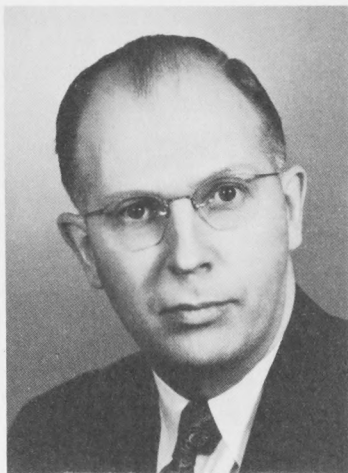
When he went overseas as one of Robertson's young men he had the respect and admiration of the Robertson church family as preacher, pastor and administrator, and both Minister and people looked forward hopefully to the end of the war and a resumption of the happy relationship with perchance a commodious hall to enable Robertson to serve its community more effectively.

Overseas he was highly regarded. With his boundless energy he was always hunting up Edmonton boys, writing letters to their folks, penetrating with unusual imagination into anxieties and sorrows. His promotion to Squadron Leader was well merited.

These comments were made concerning him at his Memorial Service: "He had the soul of a poet with poet's keener insight and because of that there was in him a beautiful unspoiled simplicity." "A joyous companion." "He enriched and refined life for the young people of Robertson." "He called us and still calls us to our best."

He died in action December, 1944.

His parents in memory of him donated his library to Robertson November 24, 1945. Also the stained glass window at the front of the chapel was erected in his memory by the congregation of Robertson.



THE RIGHT REVEREND
ANGUS J. MacQUEEN, D.D.

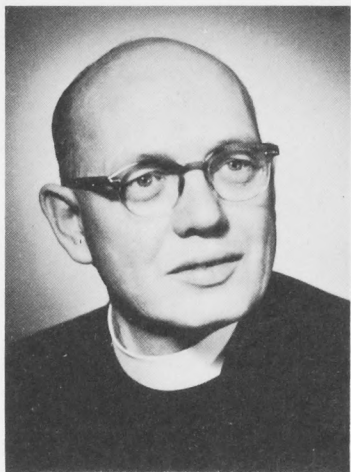
Angus James MacQueen was born at Port Morien, Cape Breton, N.S. At the United Church's Mount Allison he honoured in philosophy. Later he won prizes in Pine Hill Divinity Hall at Halifax and graduated in 1935.

After a year as Assistant in St. Andrew's Church, Sydney, he served in turn at Port Hawkesbury, Antigonish and Saint John, N.B. Then in August, 1946 came the call to Robertson. He confessed that he accepted it because he was intrigued by a desire to serve in Western Canada and because of the growth and expansion in Edmonton. There was also a plan to build a new Christian Building which had been dreamed of by Rev. J. Gordon Brown and others. The expansion did bring many new members into Robertson and the Memorial Hall was planned, built and dedicated during his pastorate.

His sermons were brilliant, carefully prepared, and thought provoking. A special feature of his ministry was his large mid-week Bible Class which lasted for exactly one hour. His prestige as a speaker resulted in invitations to conduct several University Missions on both sides of the border.

His pastorate witnessed a growth in Sunday School and girls' and boys' organizations and a substantial increase in financial contributions, including the Missionary and Maintenance Fund.

From Robertson he was called in 1952 to St. Andrew's, London, and in 1958 he was nominated and elected to the Moderatorship of the General Council of the United Church of Canada. To that office he brings extraordinary vigor, zeal and ability.



REV. R. DOUGLAS SMITH, B.A., B.D., D.D.

Born in Prescott, Ontario, son of a minister and father of a minister R. Douglas Smith graduated from McGill University and United Theological College, Montreal. After serving in Montreal West United Church, Morrisburg, Brockville, and St. Giles United Church of Hamilton, he came to Robertson on May 2, 1952. Dr. Smith's interest in making Robertson a family church created an increase in Sunday School enrolment and formation of new church groups. This brought into full use the newly consecrated Memorial Hall and later the renovated basement of the church.

His keen interest not only in his own congregation but also in the general advancement of religious welfare was evidenced by his being Chairman of the Home Missions Committee of both the Edmonton Presbytery and of the Alberta Conference. He also was chairman of the Finance Committee of the Edmonton United Church Extension Council. During his stay in Edmonton he visited Uranium City and also Yellowknife and had a part in the establishments of the United Church Congregations there as well as in other places.

His concern for the Church's outreach to the community was further indicated in the spring of 1958 by his giving leadership to

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the Spiritual Life Mission to the Robertson Community. Dr. Rex Dolan joined us for a week as a special speaker and a successful Visitation was made through the Robertson area with the co-operation of the Woman's Association, the Woman's Missionary Society and the Session. Dr. Smith himself was guest preacher at several Preaching Missions in areas outside Edmonton.

One aim that he had for Robertson was that for every dollar spent on serving itself that another dollar should be given for serving others. In 1958 this mark was nearly reached, and as a result Robertson congregation has taken a leading part not only in its support of the Missionary and Maintenance enterprise, Church Extension, Bissell, Pigeon Lake Camp and other Christian services, but its representatives are giving valued leadership to all of these.

In 1957 he received an Honorary Doctor of Divinity Degree from United Theological College.

Considering his accomplishments, spiritual leadership and organizing ability it was no surprise to his congregation when he was nominated for the Moderatorship of the General Council of the United Church of Canada.

Robertson is also very appreciative of the great assistance given in a multitude of instances to its organizations by the ever gracious and friendly Mrs. R. D. Smith. She was frequently called on as guest speaker both by Robertson organizations and elsewhere throughout the city. We are assured of the Smiths' continuing interest in the West since Robert remains as a minister at Fort St. John. Ellen while continuing at Social Service work, enriches Robertson's choir with her fine voice, and Clifford is a university student in Forestry.

Dr. Smith severed his connection with Robertson on June 30, 1959 to accept the pastorate of Dominion-Douglas Church of Montreal. We are sure that his ministry there will be equally dedicated and our best wishes go with the Smiths in their new charge.



REV. WILENA BROWN

Wilena Brown was born near Truro, Nova Scotia. After one year at Mount Allison University she went to Victoria College, University of Toronto, where she received her Bachelor of Arts degree, then she completed the Bachelor of Divinity Course at Emmanuel College.

Her student fields were in Northern Ontario and Saskatchewan. After her ordination in 1953 she spent four years in charge of Consort, Alberta. While there she was chairman of the Coronation Presbytery in 1956-57. She now is convener of Overseas Missions Committee in the Edmonton Presbytery.

As Assistant Minister in Robertson since August, 1957 her chief responsibility has been and is Christian Education though she has very capably and acceptably performed all the other duties of a minister at Robertson. During the interval between the departure of Dr. Smith and the arrival of Dr. Elliott, Miss Brown was in complete charge at Robertson.



REV. CLIFFORD ELLIOTT

Rev. Clifford Elliott, B.A., B.D., S.T.M., Ph.D., is a native of Saskatchewan. He received his B.A. from the University of Saskatchewan and his B.D. from St. Andrew's College in Saskatoon. His post-graduate degrees are from Union Theological Seminary and Columbia University, N.Y.

Before coming to Edmonton in August, 1959 he served the Church at Dundurn and North Battleford of Saskatchewan and at St. Giles in Hamilton, Ontario. In North Battleford and Hamilton, Dr. Elliott directed and produced a Radio Sunday School programme which had a very high rating. He is known to a great many as "Captain Jim" of the "Good Ship Crusader".

Robertson Church and congregation would seem to have much in common with St. Giles and already Dr. and Mrs. Elliott and family have given evidence of feeling "at home" with Robertson.

Dr. Elliott with his ready wit, pleasing voice and emphasis on the deepening of the spiritual life has already endeared himself to Robertson and the congregation looks forward with confidence to further progress under his leadership.



REV. DR. W. G. WILSON

Rev. Dr. W. G. Wilson was the first of the "stated supply" ministers at Robertson after Rev. J. Gordon Brown enlisted in the armed forces. He came in November, 1941 and carried on the work most acceptably for a year. His Irish humor endeared him to his congregation and Robertson is delighted to know that at ninety-two he is hearty and enjoying life.



REV. DR. McKINNON

After a series of successful pastorates in Nova Scotia, Ontario and Saskatchewan he retired to Toronto. He came out of this well-earned retirement in 1942 to supply at Robertson from December of that year to June, 1946. His sturdy Scotch nature endeared him to all who met him. The people of Robertson would echo the tribute paid to him by Rev. R. J. MacDonald of Regina:

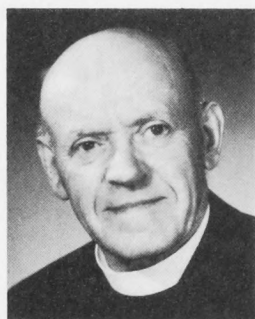
"He served his congregation with an ability and heart that won for him the affection and devotion of his people. His sermons were vital and challenging. He was an indefatigable pastor, a wise counsellor, and an inspiration to the youth."

He died June 12, 1954.



REV. DR. McELROY THOMPSON

Upon his retirement from a pastorate of Metropolitan United Church, Edmonton, in 1949, he was immediately invited to become assistant and visiting minister at Robertson. On Rev. MacQueen's departure for St. Andrew's, London, Ontario, in 1951, Dr. Thompson was appointed supply minister. This post he held until Dr. Smith arrived in 1952. His temporary pastorate was a very happy one for himself as well as for Robertson. He is remembered for his sense of humor and gentleness of spirit. He retired again in 1954, this time to Victoria. At present he is United Church chaplain to Victoria Hospitals.



REV. J. W. BAINBRIDGE, M.A., B.D.

Rev. J. W. Bainbridge after a long and fruitful ministry in Alberta retired from the Westlock pastorate in 1955. During his years of service he had been for many times chairman of his Presbytery and in 1945 was President of the Alberta Conference. He was offered and accepted the position of visiting minister at Robertson and continued in it until his further retirement in 1959. In addition to visiting and occasional preaching he was active in promoting Boys' Work and did splendid service in organizing and ministering to the Senior Fellowship group of Robertson. He also found time to be chaplain of the Montgomery Branch of the Canadian Legion.

THE SESSION

The spiritual pulse of a Church is to be found in its Session. We are fortunate in Robertson to have the complete Minutes of the Session from its organization until the present day. On Sunday, May 1st, 1910, Messrs. J. A. Mair and Walter Ramsay were inducted to form the first Session. From these two to the ninety of today's Session we find recorded a constant concern for the spiritual well-being of the Congregation. The Session has presided over the growth of Robertson and this is in evidence at the very beginning. At the second Congregational Meeting twenty-nine Members were added to the original twenty-five to form the fifty-four of the Charter Membership of the Congregation. By September 1910, nine months from the beginning, another forty-eight Members were added to bring the Membership to over the one hundred mark. The Session membership, keeping pace with the Church growth was also increased by other men and the names of Dr. R. B. Wells and Mr. A. Y. Blain, Rev. J. A. Jaffray and H. W. B. Douglas come into the record.

The meeting of January 29th, 1911 was an important one. Mr. Walter Ramsay was appointed Clerk of the Session. He held this important position for thirty-seven years, resigning in 1948. At this meeting also, the Congregation was divided into districts and it was decided to place a copy of the Presbyterian Record in each home. Thus at the very beginning there is evidence of the essential work of the Session, in the nurture and care of the Congregation, responsibility for the sharing in the wider work of the Church, and carefulness in its own details of organization. It is of interest to note that under the leadership of the Session three votes on the issue of Church Union were held—the first in 1912 and a second in 1915, then the final vote in December 1924 which brought Robertson Church into the United Church of Canada in June 1925.

In 1921 the Session purchased a moving picture projector and sponsored entertainments of an educational nature particularly for the children. This interest in the young prompted the emphasis upon Christian Education which has led to the provision of the present fine building and a program of Christian Education second to none involving hundreds of children and young people and scores of leaders.

One item of great interest is to be found in the record of the meeting of December 10th, 1940 when Rev. Gordon Brown reported that a Communicants' Class had been held in Jasper Place

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consisting of fifteen members. These would be admitted to Membership at the Communion Service and their names would be added as an Appendix Roll of Robertson Church and afterward would be transferred to Jasper Place as Charter Members, when it was organized. Later we know that Robertson Congregation purchased the first lots for Jasper Place Congregation. This interest in Church Extension not only made Robertson Church instrumental in the establishment of the influential Congregation of St. Andrews immediately to the West but also was expressed in the 1950s in the leading part Robertson Church has taken in Church Extension in Edmonton. This lead is not only in the matter of finances but in the number of representatives on the Presbytery Church Extension Committee.

One of the impressions one gathers in reading the Minutes is the care given to all those who desired to become Members of the Congregation. Their names are recorded carefully and on more than one occasion there were discussions concerning the responsibility of the Session in receiving properly new members. There is a constant listing of names indicating the steady growth of the church. The number on the Historic Roll at the present time is 5497 and the present membership of the church is 1,981.

The records of the meetings of the Session across fifty years reveal the faithful and loyal service of a large number of men who have been elected to the highest office of the Church. In 1936 it was decided by ballot in the Congregation that the term of the Elder would be five years instead of the life term. We have at the present time, three Elders whose term is for life. Messrs. R. L. Sutherland, S. A. Dickson and Harry Craig. Though carrying heavy responsibilities in the business and professional world, those who have served on the Session nevertheless attended to the details of their Church responsibility in a way which is inspiring. One cannot doubt that fifty years from now when the centenary of Robertson is celebrated that the same story will be told concerning the second half of the century.

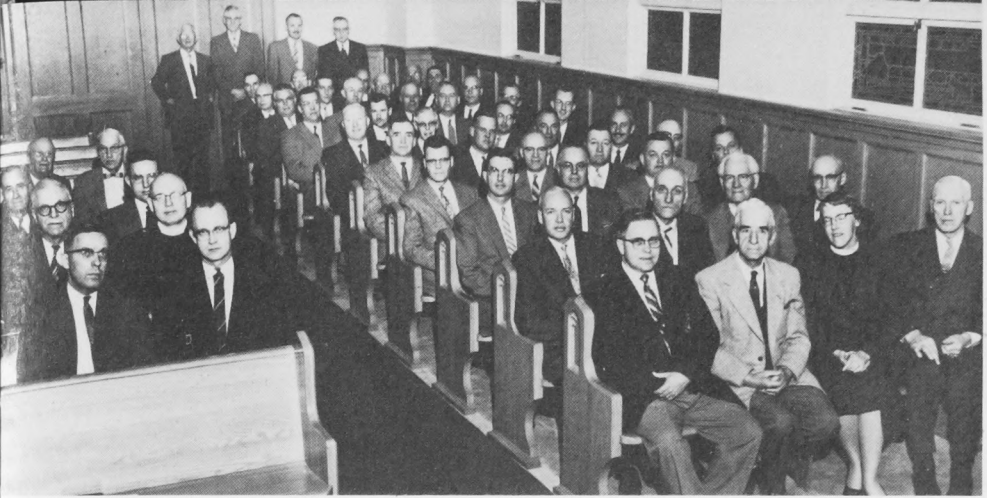
The editors feel that it would be appropriate to register the names of those who are devoting their lives to full time service with the larger Church. They are:

Rev. John Wylie, presently serving in California.

Rev. Robert Smith, now pastor at Fort St. John, B.C.

Rev. Brian Bertles, pastor at Bashaw, Alberta.

Miss Margaret Reid who taught for two years at Norway House.



THE SESSION

Back row, standing: C. C. McKechnie, W. J. Little, E. Adams, Hugh Bertles.
 Second row from back: J. Ed. Parker, John W. Farnalls, E. F. Paradis, Alex Stockwell.
 Third row: B. W. Shearer, J. R. Kenney, Rev. J. W. Bainbridge, A. S. Bird.
 Fourth Row: Cliff C. Monteith, C. J. Lange, A. O. Rossum, C. H. Smith.
 Fifth Row: Dr. A. A. Olsen, Dr. R. D. Haryett, George B. Nesbitt, K. W. Carscadden.
 Sixth row: T. A. Comfort, Gordon Cobb, Arnold Lane, George Lange.
 Seventh row: W. D. Hoskin, R. S. James, W. Massie, J. C. Scott.
 Eighth row: L. A. Witherspoon, O. Aalberg, A. M. Bacon, H. F. Irwin.
 Ninth row: J. N. Penn, D. S. Taylor, G. Higgs, M. E. Wolfe.
 Tenth row: A. W. Cook, T. R. Brasnett, S. A. Dickson, R. M. Sills.
 Eleventh (front) row: S. Gray, J. Bartleman, Rev. Wilena Brown, M. B. Morrison.
 Rear row: W. L. Smith, Dr. T. F. Macdonald.
 Second from rear: H. D. Houston, K. Provost.
 Third row: R. L. Sutherland, Dr. R. D. Smith.
 Fourth or front row: Dr. R. Francis, Dr. R. Macbeth.

Not present when this picture was taken.

H. Armstrong, E. J. Barnes, W. G. Bevington, H. L. Bouey, H. Brimacombe, L. Campbell, Lester N. Campbell, L. W. Chappell, J. D. Clark, H. S. Craig, I. C. Cunningham, F. L. Dallison, E. E. Davies, M. B. Draper, O. L. Dove, D. Eby, H. C. Frost, C. W. Gosman, S. G. Hanna, H. Hensley, W. E. Hicks, Dr. Jespersion, C. L. Keatley, Dr. Kling, J. S. Layton, Dr. McCallum, H. W. Londry, F. M. Lorrimer, D. Matheson, H. T. Maveety, C. Nicol, W. Pahal, C. H. Pardee, M. B. Piercy, R. G. Preiss, W. H. Pettigrew, N. Pound, C. Ready, Dr. A. R. Urschel, Dr. Tollefson, W. P. Wagner, V. Walters, Lee K. Yuen, C. A. MacLean, T. J. Nunn, J. H. Vollans.



At Rear: Graham Jones.

Fourth Row, Left to Right: F. Sanderson, W. A. Short, D. Wallace, J. L. Sutherland, A. R. Lilly.

Third Row, Left to Right: E. G. A. Smart, Ralph Loder, W. J. Astle, S. Topps, F. H. Heath.

Second Row, Left to Right: E. W. S. Kane, Elmer Scott, G. W. Eckstein, A. H. Dickson, W. Stan Ross.

First Row, Left to Right: J. Y. Ramsey, A. R. Medd, J. N. McCallum, K. A. Robertson.

Other members of the committee of Stewards are: G. J. Bryan, E. A. Cawker, J. P. Page, G. H. Scott, F. Newson, J. L. Brown, G. G. Farnell, W. K. Forbes, D. B. Jones, J. W. McDiarmid, W. G. McKerlie, T. E. Pinch, F. J. C. Seymour, R. Wiber, Dr. W. S. Anderson, A. V. Carlson, C. M. Hollingsworth, B. M. Massie, J. C. Nattress, H. S. Douglas, W. N. Duff, Francis L. Symes, J. L. McIntyre, A. E. Hall.

STEWARDS

The first Board of Management consisting of nine members: viz., A. C. Fraser, chairman; J. R. McIntosh, Walter Ramsay, J. St. Clair Blackett, John Killen, H. W. B. Douglas, Henry Gilbert, W. J. Henry and James M. Clarke was elected on December 16, 1909.

During 1910 the envelope system of offering was adopted and the annual financial report showed an average contribution of \$13.81. The total receipts were \$2,432.15. Assets were \$11,026, and Liabilities \$7,260. It was considered a very commendable showing.

In 1911 the finances improved by 159% and the Board of Management considered procuring a new and more suitable site.

In May 1912, four lots on the northeast corner of 121st Street and 102nd Avenue were purchased, but afterwards disposed of and two lots on the present site at 123rd Street and 102nd Avenue were bought for \$20,000. In November 1912, the church property on 116th Street was disposed of for \$30,000.

In 1913 a third lot immediately north of the two already obtained on 123rd Street was bought for \$11,000. It was to be the site of the future manse or would be available for church expansion.

(continued)

It was decided to start building following the plans of First Baptist church of Calgary. To finance the building a loan of \$50,000 from The Manufacturers' Life Assurance Co. was obtained.

In 1914-15 steps were taken to incorporate the church in order to float a mortgage bond. Due to the war, great financial stress was felt and some doubted that the church could survive the strain. No sooner was the Armistice signed than the city was enveloped in the nation-wide 'flu epidemic which caused the temporary ceasing of all public functions. Yet, while staggering under the financial repercussions with a debt burden of nearly \$100,000, an extract from an annual meeting of this period reads "Our burden is heavy and times are hard, but we have confidence in our people and in the future that this great cause cannot fail."

In 1921 Session and Management approved of a merger with Wesley Church in anticipation of the Union of the Presbyterian and Methodist churches and offered to enter into negotiations to that end. Wesley was unwilling to consider the merger.

Meanwhile the financial affairs of the church slowly but steadily improved. In 1924 the lot immediately north of the church was surrendered to the mortgagees in order to reduce the congregation's liabilities. The Ladies' Aid provided \$2,700 in order to secure a quit claim. The same property was reacquired in May, 1947 as the site for the Memorial Hall.

In January 1927 a long standing bank loan was retired at a discount by eight members loaning the church \$500 each and a cheque of \$1,500 from the Ladies' Aid.

During the chairmanship of E. E. Sexsmith, 1938 to 1944 the terms of the Manufacturers' Life Assurance mortgage were modified with the result that it was paid off and the mortgage burned on January 26, 1944.

The property at 10229 123rd Street was purchased as a manse for \$11,000 in 1946.

In 1947 planning commenced for the erection of a Memorial Hall to accommodate a Sunday School of 700 pupils together with church office, library, chapel, kitchen, gymnasium-auditorium, various committee rooms and apartment for caretaker at a proposed cost of \$75,000. Funds were steadily gathered for the new enterprise and finally on June 11, 1950 the first sod was turned by Walter Ramsay.

The General Chairman of committees for the building of the new Hall was E. E. Sexsmith. Chairman of plans and construction was George Scott. Finances were under Thornton Graham.

The Hall was completed in 1952 and final payment made on October 15, 1952, by which time the costs had reached \$150,000.

1954 saw the installation of the five memorial windows in the chapel.

1955 brought a spirited discussion over alterations to the chancel of the church and the organ. Finally it was agreed to have the choir seated to face the choir leader on his right and left, and to acquire a new and greatly improved organ.

Messrs. George Scott and James McDiarmid in selling their property to Safeway as parking space made it a condition of the sale that Robertson United Church was to have free parking privileges on the property sold until October, 1981.

In 1957 the basement under the church was thoroughly renovated at a cost of \$20,300 to make it more suitable for Sunday School purposes. In this same year the Sector plan of canvassing was introduced and is to be used for the third time in 1959.

In 1958 the manse at 10229 123rd Street was sold and another one at 96 St. George's Crescent acquired.

The United Church Pension Plan for lay employees came into effect at Robertson on January 1, 1959.

While it is impossible to list all who have given faithful service to the Board of Management and the Committee of Stewards it may be noted that the following have been chairmen in about that order: A. C. Fraser, J. St. Clair Blackett, J. Chalmers, J. R. McIntosh, Fred Pickles, William Smith, R. L. Sutherland, H. S. Craig, John Macalister, Dr. R. S. Decker, A. L. Sawle, J. C. Low, W. C. Bruce, Dr. Scott Hamilton, E. E. Sexsmith, J. G. Johnston, Logan Sutherland, George Cormie, E. G. A. Smart, J. G. Anderson, E. G. Ellerton, George Scott, Arthur Lilly, K. A. Robertson.

Special mention might be made of H. E. Hardisty who joined the Board in 1912 and was associated with it, mostly as treasurer, until March, 1950, when the title of Honorary Treasurer was conferred on him. He died October 9, 1951 at the age of 92.

The following are the trustees of Robertson United Church:

Mr. George Bryan, Q.C.

Mr. Harry Craig

Mr. S. A. Dickson, Q.C.

Mrs. J. J. Lynch

Dr. Robert Macbeth

Mr. Kenneth Robertson

Mr. George Scott

Mrs. J. L. Sutherland

Mr. Roy L. Sutherland

Mr. Merrill Wolfe

THE OFFICIAL BOARD

The coming of Robertson Church into the United Church of Canada in 1925 brought changes in its organization. As the Presbyterian Church contributed to the Union the Session, so the Methodist Church contributed the Official Board. This Board answered a need which was evident in former Presbyterian Congregations—that of bringing together the Elders and Managers and Representatives of Church Organizations in a common Board with administrative powers. In 1927 we find the first mention of an Official Board and for seven years there are references to the Board and to its Secretary, called the Recording Steward. On December 13th, 1934 in the Session, on motion of Dr. Wells, seconded by Mr. A. Y. Blain, Mr. Craig was asked to bring before the Board of Management the following recommendation:

“That the matter of the Constitution of the Official Board be referred to the Annual Meeting when arrangements could be made for the time of meeting of the Official Board to conform with the Manual of the United Church.”

That Annual Meeting in January, 1935, formed officially the Official Board. From then on the Board has dealt with those matters of mutual concern to the Session and Stewards and established its place in the life and work of Robertson. In the 1950s when a new Memorial Hall was built and other extensive capital improvements made, the Official Board took a leading part in the financing of these enterprises. In additions to the Staff, again the Board made important decisions. With the growth of the Congregation, and of necessity the enlargement of the Session and the Stewards and also the increase in the yearly operating budget it has become extremely important that the Official Board exercise its functions as laid down in the Manual of the Church.

On February 4th, 1959, the Annual Congregational Meeting accepted the recommendation of the Official Board that the property of the Congregation would come under the Trusts of Model Deed of the United Church of Canada. This action has been taken and a Board of Trustees has been elected by the Congregation.

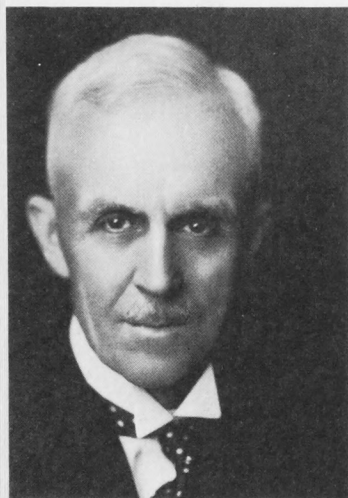
The Official Board meets in regular sessions three or four times a year and more frequently as required on Call of the Chairman. Its Chairman is the Minister of the Congregation and the Recording Steward is Mr. Ralph C. Loder.



ROBERTSON

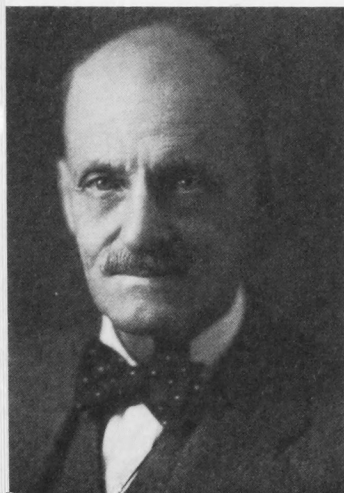
H. W. B. Douglas

Member of organizing committee of 1908. One of first six elders, and one of nine on first Board of Management. First superintendent of Sunday School.



Dr. R. B. Wells

Member of organizing committee of 1908. One of first six elders, on first Board of Trustees.



A. Y. Blain, K.C.

One of first six elders. Superintendent of Sunday School for twenty-five years.

PIONEERS

Walter Ramsay

Member and clerk of first Session. Member and Secretary of first Board of Management.



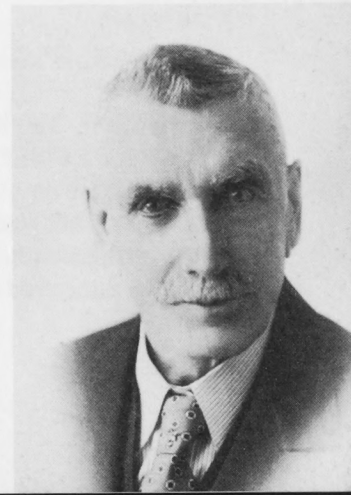
J. R. McIntosh

On first Board of Management, then treasurer and chairman. On first Board of Trustees, later an elder.



H. E. Hardisty

Became member Board of Management 1912. Served it continuously mostly as treasurer until he retired in 1950 at ninety-nine years of age.





Back Row, Left to Right: Vince Walters, Superintendent; Ken Waight, Gordon Lange, Don B. Wallace, Orvel Dove, A. Stuart Bird, D. S. Taylor, Mervyn Lutz, George Lange. Front Row, Left to Right: Miss Ruth Schwindt, Miss Aileen Moore, Mrs. D. B. Wallace, Mrs. P. Rentiers, Mrs. F. Lone, Mrs. A. H. Mitchell, Mrs. W. E. Hicks.

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL

Robertson Sunday School was opened February 20, 1910, in the church on 116 Street North of Jasper. The Managing Board undertook to finance the school so far as supplies and equipment were concerned, leaving the proceeds raised by the school to be devoted to Missionary purposes.

A Cradle Roll was established in September, 1910, by Mrs. McAllister.

The number of pupils on the Sunday School Roll in 1910 was 127 with 12 officers and teachers. The Superintendent was Mr. H. W. B. Douglas; Assistant Superintendent, Mr. A. Y. Blain; Librarian, Mr. McKibbin; Secretary-Treasurer, Mr. Ewart Jaffray; Pianist, Miss Porteous.

The receipts were \$181.75 in that first year.

From 1912 on there are continuous records of gifts and services to others beyond the Robertson parish. At Christmas, 1912, a bale of various materials was made up and distributed among the poor of the city. This was the beginning of a Giving Christmas which seems to have continued up to the present.

The School grew steadily and by 1913 was eagerly anticipating having ample space in the basement hall of the new church on 123 Street.

In 1911, Mr. A. Y. Blain became Superintendent and continued in that office until 1934. The Sunday School in 1923 showed its appreciation of his services by giving him a special presentation, and when he resigned after twenty-five years of service "he was highly commended for his many years of faithful service. Few men have to their credit such a record of Sunday School leadership".

Following is a partial list of the superintendents since 1934: Mr. G. A. Prang, 1934-35; Mr. H. Radcliffe, 1936-37; Chas. Anderson, 1937-40; Mr. W. C. Bruce, 1940-41; Dr. T. G. How, 1942-47; Mr. J. T. Wylie, 1947-48; Mr. W. H. Pettigrew, 1949-55; Mr. V. Walters, 1955 to present.

Others especially noted in the annual reports are: Mr. A. W. Haddow for fifteen years of successful service in the Boys' section; Mr. J. D. A. Macdonald for seventeen years of faithful work, mostly as treasurer; Mr. Don Ramsay, for several years of faithful service; Mr. L. H. Cobbledick as secretary for many years; Mrs. J. Johnston, who gave sixteen years of service to the Kindergarten section and Mrs. T. C. McFarlane.

In 1912 Robertson Sunday School established branch Sunday Schools at Westmount and Jasper Place, and later took over responsibility for a third in Sherbrooke. All three have developed into flourishing independent congregations known as Westminster, St. Andrew's and Kirk.

In 1923 the Sunday School put on moving pictures on Friday evenings with films from the Department of Extension, but the limited supply of films was soon exhausted, and this activity ceased in 1925.

The 1946 annual report pointed out that "the boys and girls who come up from the Junior Department soon drift away. The congregation should provide someone who can give a great deal of time to Religious Education in the Church and should budget generously for the costs of a paid supervisor". Miss Betty Bowman was secured in 1948 for this particular work.

In May, 1951, the new Memorial Hall was dedicated and in September it became the new home of the Sunday School with the lower church hall providing room for further growth. The enrolment was 606.

In 1954 Mrs. Ruth Glanville, a deaconess, was secured for a period of three years. On her departure Rev. Wilena Brown became Assistant Minister in charge of Religious Education. In this same period a Religious Education Committee was organized by Session. A systematic search for Talent (Sunday School Teachers) was carried out. This resulted in there being a full staff on hand to open the 1957-58 school year. This year also witnessed a complete renovation of the old hall.

In 1958 the enrolment rose to 900 pupils. Total givings for the year were over three thousand dollars with one thousand and sixty-nine dollars being for Missions.

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The Sunday School meets in two sections—the pupils 9 and over at 9:45 a.m. and the younger ones during the Worship service at 11:00 a.m. Even with this division the building is used to its utmost capacity.

One of the joys of the last few years has been the steady growth in the number of Young People 15-17 years of age who meet in the Chapel on Sunday mornings. Under the leadership of Mr. and Mrs. J. D. Clark this group became a Hi-C group with a wide variety of interests and activities. Now counselled by Mr. David Taylor, assisted by Mr. George Lange, the group has an enrollment of 90 this year.

Mr. Vincent Walters is General Superintendent, Mr. Gordon Lange, General Secretary, and Mr. and Mrs. Donald Wallace are Treasurers.

A total of 78 teachers are engaged in the regular work with classes. These fine people are doing a great work and we may well rejoice at the way in which Robertson is caring for its children.

Through the years Robertson Sunday School has met the many challenges which have been presented to it, with vision and courage.

MISSION BAND

The first Mission Band of Robertson Church was formed on March 8, 1913 with Mrs. Jaffray as Honorary President, Adele Blain (Mrs. E. G. A. Smart) Treasurer, Miss Inglis as Pianist.

Many carefully prepared papers were given by the girls at the meetings during the year. Ten dolls were nicely dressed for the Christmas of the Indian School girls.

In the late 20s Mrs. T. C. McFarlane had a Mission Band and again in 1937 Mrs. Ellis and Dr. Mary Attack organized it again.

The present Mission Band which is sponsored by the Ada Sandell Evening Auxiliary of the W.M.S. was formed on November 7, 1957 under Mrs. F. J. Lone. Twenty-eight girls and boys were present.

The Band meets on Thursdays from 4:15 to 5:30 for worship, study, games and handicrafts. The study this year is on the Netherlands and the Canadian Indians.

At the Christmas season 1958 the Band made a visit with gifts to the Indian Residential School and also played host to the Indian boys and girls on a return visit.

The President in 1957-58 was Kathleen Astle

1958-59 is Judith Clark



Back Row, left to right: Mrs. K. W. Carscadden, Mrs. J. H. Vollans, Mrs. E. C. McDonald, Mrs. W. Duff, Mrs. W. A. Patrick, Mrs. W. D. Hoskin.
 Front Row, left to right: Mrs. M. G. McCallum, Mrs. Ada Durrand, Miss A. M. Magee, Mrs. J. A. Morgan, Mrs. H. Loder, Mrs. J. J. Lynch (President).
 Absent when picture taken: Mrs. J. A. Leask, Mrs. O. Trautman.

WOMAN'S ASSOCIATION

It was in 1910 that the Ladies' Aid Society of Robertson Presbyterian Church originated in a meeting of fifteen ladies at the home of Mrs. J. St. Clair Blackett. There were present: Mrs. Blackett, Mrs. J. A. Jaffray, Mrs. Hyndman, Mrs. Brown, Mrs. W. J. Richardson, Mrs. R. B. Wells, Mrs. Walter Ramsay, Mrs. H. W. B. Douglas, Mrs. J. Chalmers, Mrs. Bruce Powley, Mrs. J. R. McIntosh, Mrs. Jackson Hanby, Mrs. McKibbon, Miss Band and Miss Gilbert.

During that year a committee was formed, convened by Mrs. Jaffray, to visit every home in the congregation. This resulted in increased membership and augmented funds. As the church grew in numbers the ladies were forewarned that their help would be greatly needed when a larger church was built. The move to a new and much larger building added to the responsibilities and obligations of the Ladies' Aid. However, from the very first the policy was to contribute to outside causes as well as our own.

Among the causes supported were and are: All People's Mission, Red Cross, Bible Society, Deaconess Order, C.N.I.B., Agnes Forbes Lodge, Overseas Relief, Indian Residential School, Naramata School, Adoption of a Korean orphan.

(continued)

The following ladies served as president in the order given: Mrs. St. Clair Blackett, Mrs. John Chalmers, Mrs. Haines, Mrs. W. A. Brown, Mrs. G. S. Armstrong, Mrs. W. D. McLean, Mrs. A. F. Anderson, Mrs. J. O. Stein, Mrs. Fred Hollands, Mrs. W. Larue Smith, Mrs. J. E. Somerville, Mrs. P. R. Thompson, Mrs. George Scott, Mrs. George Cormie, Mrs. R. D. Watts, Mrs. J. R. Duncan, Mrs. J. A. Leask, Mrs. W. H. Pettigrew, Mrs. Lloyd Murray and Mrs. J. J. Lynch.

In February 1932 the name was changed from Ladies' Aid to Woman's Association in accordance with the United Church Manual. It was at this same meeting that 10 circles were formed according to districts. There are now eleven circles.

The main objective of course has been assistance to the Local Church. This has taken various forms. In addition to direct financial contributions to the Stewards, the W.M.S. and the M. & M. Fund, the W.A. has provided furnishings and equipment throughout the whole church, paid for radio broadcasts and assisted various local groups.

To finance all these projects money has been raised by various means; more especially by putting on luncheons, dinners and suppers of all kinds, teas, bazaars and rummage sales.

Other services include serving morning coffee to the choirs and washing of communion glasses.

One of the outstanding events in Robertson W.A. was the Sector Plan Dinner held in the Fall of 1957 in the Jubilee Auditorium. 800 people were provided for at a buffet dinner in less than 30 minutes by the 100 women who worked under the able convenership of Mrs. Lloyd Murray, then president of the W.A.

We owe a deep debt of gratitude to the women who have guided us in our work. They who have gone, have left us with a high standard to maintain, of loyalty to our church and loyalty to our fellow men. They have accomplished, by translating from words into deeds, the objectives of our organization: "The work of our hands, establish Thou it".



Back Row, left to right: Mrs. R. L. Sutherland, Mrs. E. W. S. Kane, Mrs. R. Douglas Smith, Mrs. George Bryan, Mrs. A. R. Lilly, Mrs. Carl Lange (President), Mrs. F. J. C. Seymour, Mrs. W. H. Pettigrew, Mrs. E. G. A. Smart, Mrs. W. Larue Smith.
Front Row, left to right: Mrs. J. L. Sutherland, Mrs. H. Irwin, Mrs. E. McLean, Mrs. A. Penn, Miss Grace E. Hammon, Miss Agnes Inglis, Mrs. M. A. Cole, Mrs. W. H. McGuffin, Mrs. Heath McDonald.

Absent when picture taken: Mrs. A. L. Forrester, Mrs. J. W. Bainbridge, Mrs. Francis Neal and Mrs. A. F. Currie.

WOMAN'S MISSIONARY SOCIETY

Among the early organizations in Robertson Church were the Woman's Missionary Society and the Woman's Missionary Auxiliary. These combined their strength in 1914 and the resulting organization has served to express the ever growing interest of Robertson women in Missionary enterprises at home and abroad.

The result of the union might be compared to the development of the banyan tree, the branches of which drop shoots to the ground, the shoots take root and support the parent branches. Thus one tree will often cover much ground. So in Robertson the work of the Woman's Missionary Society has inspired missionary activity in other groups in the church each of which is worthy of note in its own right.

The W.M.S. besides holding monthly meetings with a program of speakers, study, lectures and group activity assists and supervises the Explorers and C.G.I.T.

In December a joint meeting of all the Missionary groups is held.

A W.M.S. choir formed by Mrs. J. G. Butler has been well received at its various appearances.

Among the names of the Presidents of the W.M.S. are: Mrs. J. A. Jaffray, Mrs. D. N. McLeod, Mrs. J. A. Fairley, Mrs. J. S. McDonald, Mrs. W. D. Ramsay, Mrs. R. B. Wells, Mrs. S. A. Dickson, Mrs. J. E. Duclos, Mrs. J. F. Brander, Mrs. Wm. Smith, Mrs. E. W. S. Kane, Mrs. J. C. Nattress, Mrs. J. Hawthorne, Mrs. W. Williamson, Mrs. J. G. Butler, Mrs. W. Larue Smith, and Mrs. Carl Lange.

ADA SANDELL EVENING AUXILIARY

W.M.S. ROBERTSON UNITED CHURCH

In May, 1950, the afternoon auxiliary of the Women's Missionary Society, realizing the need for another evening auxiliary within the church invited those interested to gather at the manse as the guests of Mrs. Angus McQueen. Two new auxiliaries were formed, West Evening and East Evening.

In January, 1951, the first regular meeting of the East Evening was held. Charter members were: Mrs. F. Barber, Mrs. G. Brown, Mrs. Jean Findley, Mrs. J. Gilchrist, Mrs. F. Lone, Mrs. J. A. Mackay, Mrs. Pat Miller, Mrs. F. M. Ross, Mrs. C. Rowell, Mrs. G. Whitley. Mrs. E. W. S. Kane, a representative of the senior W.M.S. auxiliary, acted as counsellor of the newly-formed group. She has continued in this role giving invaluable guidance and encouragement to the members.

In January, 1952, the West Evening united with the East Evening Auxiliary. Shortly after amalgamation the name Ada Sandell was chosen for the auxiliary, honoring Miss Ada Sandell, R.N., a missionary serving in Korea since 1924. Miss Sandell received her nurse's training in our United Church Hospital at Lamont, the Archer Memorial. For many years Miss Sandell served as Nurses' Training Instructress at Severance Hospital, Korea. She is still serving in Korea and the group has retained personal contact with her through correspondence.

Under the leadership of the presidents: Mrs. C. Rowell, Mrs. F. M. Ross, Mrs. J. A. Mackay, Mrs. A. H. Lane, Mrs. F. Lone, Mrs. R. Butler, numerous parcels of clothing and hospital supplies have been sent to Miss Sandell, Korea. Assistance was given to the Indian Residential School in the form of drapes for the children's dormitories, a record player and records, pyjamas and other clothing, collecting skates and toys, and contributing to a fund for new dishes. Christmas parcels and hampers have been sent to church hospitals in Alberta and to needy families.

This group also sponsors the Mission Band, which is directed by Mrs. F. Lone. At present the Ada Sandell Auxiliary is presided over by Mrs. R. Butler, and Mrs. Ruth Lomas is secretary.



A Social Gathering of the Beth Imrie Group

Standing, Left to Right: Miss Ann Dickson, President; Miss Beth Maveety, Convener; Mrs. John Imrie, Honorary President.
Seated: Mrs. Agnes McQueen.

BETH IMRIE GROUP

On May 13, 1932 twenty-one girls met under the guidance of Mrs. J. E. Duclos and Mrs. T. C. McFarlane. After Mrs. Duclos explained how they could assist in the work of the Bonnyville hospital it was decided to form a Mission Circle with Mrs. McFarlane as leader.

In 1933 Mrs. John Imrie followed Mrs. McFarlane as leader and honorary president and since then has given splendid leadership in the group's various activities. In the same year Mrs. Hugh A. McLeod became an honorary member and took a keen and active interest in the Circle's projects.

In 1942 Mrs. Imrie gave her consent to the group using her name. In 1947 the Beth Imrie Circle became the Beth Imrie Group Auxiliary of the Woman's Missionary Society with yearly allocations of money to be raised, work to do, and outline of studies.

While the number of members has remained steady, the financial allocation has been raised from \$15 in 1934 to \$400 in 1959. These allocations and other funds were raised between 1949 and 1956 by sponsoring a Thanksgiving Family Coffee Party each year. These parties were happy, friendly occasions.

The group has made layettes, afghans and quilts which, along with bundles of good used clothing have been sent to various places at home and abroad. In addition a Christmas hamper is prepared each year.

Since 1946 the Beth Imrie Group has kept the Cradle Roll of Robertson United Church.

The members feel that much has been done and hope that they will be able to accomplish even more in the years to come.



MRS. S. A. DICKSON

THE FLOWER GROUP

Mrs. S. A. Dickson was the founder and first President of this Society which was organized in 1928. She remained the leader for many years. The objective of the group was to have a yearly bazaar, the proceeds of which were to be used to buy flowers for services in the church. These flowers were then to be taken to the sick or shut in members of the congregation.

Over the years the Flower Group has raised over eight thousand dollars which has been used not only for flowers but for other worthy causes as well.

The Flower Group joined Mr. S. A. Dickson and family in placing a stained glass window in the Memorial Chapel to the Memory of Mrs. Dickson.

A very beautiful minute book was presented to the Flower Group by Mr. Justice J. Boyd McBride in Memory of Mrs. McBride who was a charter member and succeeded Mrs. Dickson as president. She held that office for many years.

The floral decorations provided by this group through the years have added greatly to the services of worship in Robertson.

GUIDES

The 20th Edmonton Company of Guides was organized by Miss Peggy Martin, April 1, 1937 with three members. The numbers increased steadily and in recent years fluctuates between forty and sixty. Miss Martin has continued for those twenty-two years to give inspired and inspiring service to the Guides and Brownies of Robertson and is worthy of the highest commendation.

The Guide program aims at an all around development of its members and includes camping. Guides promise "to help other people at all times". The Robertson Guides have helped by making toys for Missions, Churches and Camsell Hospital. They have also to their credit; war parcels, canteen work, help at blood clinics, etc.

The Gold Cord which is the highest distinction available to Canadian Guides, and is comparable to "Queen Scout" for boys, has been won by these members of the Robertson Company: Ruby James, Mary Lowe, Virginia Pidgeon, Evelyn Bird, Wilma Palmer, Shirley Edwards, Joyce Aylen, Beryl Bevington.

The honour of representing Canadian Guides abroad has fallen to: Wilma Palmer at World Conference in U.S.A., 1948; Joyce Aylen in Sweden, 1954; Corinne Hutchison in Switzerland, 1957.

CANADIAN GIRLS IN TRAINING

The Robertson group of C.G.I.T. was organized about 1922 under Miss Gertrude Johnson. The scanty records indicate that it flourished then and under her successors, including Miss Margaret Johnson, now Mrs. A. W. Hardy. At that time a special interest was taken in providing cakes and entertainment for the children of the Kiwanis Home.

A list of the Department Superintendents through the years includes: Miss Margaret Morgan, Mrs. Wm. Peyton, Mrs. Carl Lange, Miss Jocelyn Simpson, Mrs. Ruth Glanville, Rev. Wilena Brown and Miss Dorothy Kenny.

The C.G.I.T. meets on Tuesdays for one hour and a half. Their program includes: Recreation, Worship, Bible study, Mission study, Service to the church and community. Last year one group went regularly to the Royal Alex Hospital for play therapy with the children. Another group entertained the children of the Protestant Children's Home. The whole group have visited and been hosts to the girls of the Indian Residential School. Thus in various ways the girls seek to know and understand better the way God would have them be.

BROWNIES

The Brownies of Robertson United Church were organized in 1936 with Mrs. W. H. Stevens as the Brown Owl. It was the twentieth Edmonton Brownie Pack. She was followed in 1937 by Mrs. Moorehouse, in 1938 by Miss Arlene Pinch, and in 1940 by Mrs. P. A. Rooney who held the office for fifteen years. During Mrs. Rooney's leadership many Brownies from her Pack were chosen to represent Canada at home and abroad.

Mrs. E. H. Pritchard was Brown Owl in 1955.

In January, 1950, a second Pack called the thirty-second was registered. Its first Brown Owl was Mrs. G. R. Williams. Mrs. Glen Acorn followed. In 1956 Mrs. H. F. Watlington took over, and this autumn Mrs. P. Dickson will be Brown Owl.

The Brownie's promise:

"I promise to do my best:

To do my duty to God and the Queen.

To help other people every day, especially
those at home."

EXPLORERS

The Explorer program, which is for girls 9-11 years, is based on increasing the girls' knowledge of the world and God's plan for life in it. Programs are called Explorations and they are on a variety of topics such as Home Life, Nature Study, Mission Study and the Bible. The group is conscious of the needs of others and they help in Church and Community as they are able. They have taken a special interest in helping the Explorer group at Bissell, and sing carols to the people at the C.N.I.B. at Christmas. They affiliate annually with the W.M.S. — which means that they do a prescribed Mission Study and give a money gift to Missions.

Recent Chief Counsellors are: 1952 Miss J. Dargavel

1954 Mrs. Fred Seymour

1955 to present Mrs. E. H. Paradis

VACATION SCHOOL

Vacation School was first held in 1953. It is a summer program of Recreation, Worship, Bible Study and Handcraft. About 50 children from 4-14 have attended each year. It is held for a two-week period. It has proven to be a most enjoyable and worthwhile experience for both teachers and pupils.

CUB AND SCOUT GROUPS

The Scout movement was one of the first entered into by Robertson Church. It was in the year 1913 that a troop was formed, under the leadership of Mr. George McKean. The enrollment that year was twenty-six boys. From then until the year 1934, the records are not very complete, and not much is known about how the group progressed.

In 1934, Mrs. R. M. Dingwall took the initiative and promoted the 11th. Wolf Cub Pack, and thus for the past twenty-five years this has been a large and active group within Robertson. Many hundreds of boys are indebted to Mrs. Dingwall for her interest in Cubs and Scouts.

Mr. Charles H. Douglas was the first Cubmaster of that 1934 group, and about the same time the 11th. Scout Troop was re-organized with Archie Dickson as Scoutmaster.

Naturally, the troop membership fell off slightly during the war years, but even then the boys were taking an active part in community service work.

Membership in the troop has averaged about thirty boys, and the leaders who succeeded Archie Dickson were:

Blake Clutterham	R. S. Magill	A. R. Lilly
William Neil	R. C. McMath	George Findlay
W. B. Grant		Robert Emmott

The present Scoutmaster is Robert Swindlehurst.

Likewise, the Cub Pack which for the past several years has had a membership in excess of one hundred boys, has been blessed with many fine leaders.

C. H. Douglas	C. Harry Pardee	William Bristowe
Jack Smith		James Taylor

and T. E. Adams who has been with the group for the past nine years.

The Group Committee which is responsible for the operation of the Cubs and Scouts, was the prime mover in the establishment of the huge Scout Camp at Skeleton Lake.

It would not be possible to name all those who have served on the committee, but perhaps special mention should be made of Mrs. Geo. Parney, Jim Clarke, Lee Dallison and Tom Comfort. The chairman is now Mr. Ian C. MacDonald, who is active on the Regional and Camp Committees as well.

Finally, the Mothers' Auxiliary must be lauded for their indispensable help through the years. This group has always received wonderful support from the Mothers of Cubs and Scouts, and has been headed in recent years by Mrs. J. G. Butler, Mrs. J. G. Caddell, Mrs. Tom Comfort, Mrs. R. D. Loomis, and presently by Mrs. H. G. Richardson.



Back Row, left to right: K. Robertson, W. Little, Dr. A. Urschel, Dr. R. D. Smith, Rev. J. W. Bainbridge, M. Morrison, H. Londry.
Front Row, left to right: F. Sanderson, Dr. MacCallum, D. Brimacombe, Wm. Giles, President; Orvel Dove, Dr. E. Tollefson.

THE A.O.T.S. MEN'S CLUB

Robertson A.O.T.S. Men's Club was organized in the fall of 1955. The Presidents to date are Messrs. Wm. Pettigrew, Douglas Brimacombe, Orvel Dove and Wm. Giles.

As One That Serves, the club has assisted in various enterprises. Its main object has been to help in the development of the Pigeon Lake Camp for the youth of the United Church. This it has done by taking part in city-wide sales of nuts and bedding plants as well as by forming work parties to assist with the construction and maintenance of the camp. It also assists with various church activities such as the Sunday School picnic.

Three members of the club: Messrs. Arnold Bacon, Vincent Walters and Orvel Dove are directors of the Pigeon Lake Camp.

The club holds a monthly dinner meeting at which good food, good fellowship and good entertainment prevail.

All men of the church are welcome.

YOUNG PEOPLE'S SOCIETIES IN ROBERTSON

On October 3, 1910 the Robertson Church Young People's Society was formed with Mr. C. A. Hyndman as president and Mr. W. E. Blackett as secretary. Other early presidents were Mr. A. W. Haddow and Mr. John Riach.

The Society was a rallying point for a large group of young people in the congregation, due in part to a tennis club that the Society operated in connection with the church. With the movement to the new church and the war, records are scanty, but we have a Young People's Society organized in 1933 under Mr. John Imrie with president Miss Grace Hope (Mrs. A. Dickson). From here on there are a number of organizations for the younger folk of the church.

In 1952 we picked up the name Young People's Union. Since then its presidents include: Miss A. Lyons, Mr. Robert Smith, Mr. George Lange, Miss Margaret Reid, Mr. Gordon Lange, Mr. Donald Williams and Mr. Kenneth Waight.

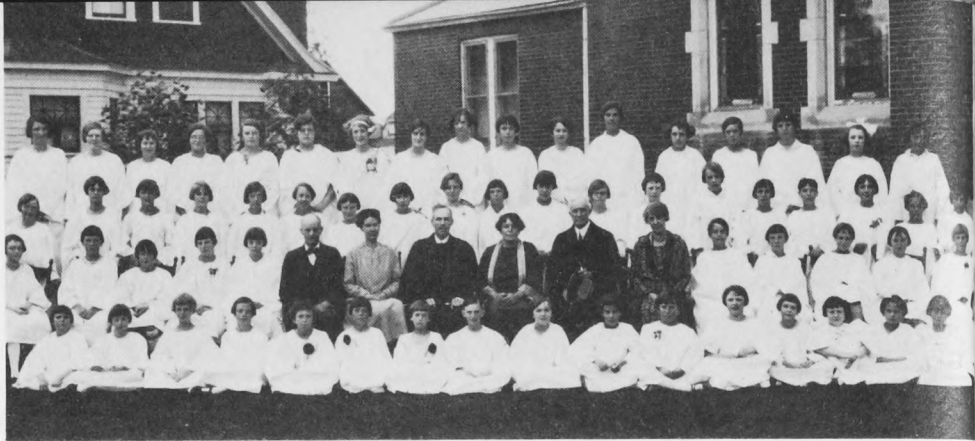
Its activities have included: visiting patients at the Charles Camsell Hospital, working parties at Bissell's Summer Camp, discussions concerning many different aspects of life.

BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL GROUP ANNIVERSARY REPORT

This group began as a Young Adult Fellowship early in 1955. It continued under this name until the fall of 1957 when the name Business and Professional was chosen. It is a mixed group made up largely of people between the ages of 25 and 40.

A variety of program ideas have been used. All centre around the four main areas of concern—friendship, education, service and social activities. The Group has taken its part in both the local Church and in wider areas as it has been able.

1958-59 has seen a consolidation of the Group. It has given outstanding leadership in Young Adult work in the Presbytery. A Work Camp at Pigeon Lake in May for all the groups in the area resulted in a move toward more definite organization on the Presbytery level. This Camp was a direct result of the concern and the work of President Stan Carlow and the Robertson group. The group has grown in both numbers and effectiveness this last year and Mr. Carlow, President, says of the future—"Leadership, fellowship and stewardship are our goals for the future. The past has shown great gains but greater gains are ahead as we progress on a solid foundation for the Church and Young Adults.



Junior Choir, Robertson United Church, June 1926

MUSIC IN ROBERTSON

From the time of its organization Robertson has put a high value on the service of music, and until the arrival of Mr. Alex Kevan in 1937 had one or more paid soloists. At the beginning Mr. Jackson Hanby was choir director until 1912. His services were much appreciated.

Mr. Hayden Morris next became leader on a budget of \$1,500. He was followed by Mr. Herbert Wild who continued until 1927.

Choirs are like other church organizations in that they have periods of growth and periods when it is difficult to find people who have the ability and the time to contribute their services. Unlike other church organizations choir members must be regular in serving the church three times weekly if the choir is to function in a satisfactory manner. So a difficult period appeared in Robertson between 1927 and 1930.

Some of the soloists who were active in Robertson in the doldrums period as well as before and after are: Mrs. G. L. Hudson, Miss V. Cumming, Mrs. Roy, Miss K. Clark, Mrs. W. McLelland, Mr. W. Angus, Mr. W. H. Edwards, Mr. W. Smith, Mr. W. Cromb, Mr. G. Conquest, Mr. E. Gunderson, Mr. F. Williams, Mr. J. Williams, Mrs. J. C. Nattress, Mr. Delbert McFarland, Miss Kay Zender, Mrs. G. Cormie, Miss Berniece McBeth.

In the period of Henry Attack which ended in 1935 it is recalled that the oratorios "Samson" and "The Messiah" were put on with augmented choirs and the double quartette.

In Mr. Kevan's period from 1935 to 1945 the policy of having paid soloists was discarded. During this time the choir co-operated in presenting on Good Friday the Seven Last Words of Christ by Dubois. Then the Candlelight Service on Christmas Eve was commenced at which time Mr. and Mrs. Kevan played piano and organ selections as well as other times. He also organized the Junior Choir to take the morning service once a month. Then too there were Sunday evening Organ recitals using city soloists as well as those of Robertson.

Following Mr. Kevan in 1945 came John Reymes-King, Richard Carrol and William Cromb.

In October 1952 Mr. G. Douglas Millson came to us. In 1953 a boys' choir was formed, and in 1955 an intermediate choir came into being. So, from a musical standpoint the Church now provides a choir as part of its program of religious education from the age of eight right through to adulthood.

The choirs of Robertson under Mr. Millson have presented from time to time some of the major choral works. Examples are: Brahms' Requiem in 1956, and Mendelssohn's "Hymn of Praise" in 1957. It was accompanied by two pianos and the organ. In 1958, on Good Friday, the choirs presented Dubois' "Seven Last Words".

At Christmas in 1955 and 1957 The Junior Choirs with the assistance of senior choir soloists presented Christmas Carol pageants with over one hundred taking part.

These choirs are in reality training grounds for all singers of all ages. Parents may feel that children to be accepted by the choir must be particularly gifted. This is not the case. Your director knows that every person can sing, and also that some sing better than others. He welcomes into his choirs all those who have a desire to serve the church in the service of music, and who want to improve their musical ability by learning some of the fine music it is their privilege to sing. Robertson Church has supplied the music, fine musical instruments and the staff for use and benefit of the membership and children of the church. It is Mr. Millson's hope that everyone who has the desire will make use of these advantages.

MEN'S CLUB

The Men's Club of Robertson flourished from the late 20s until the early 50s. It met in the lower hall several times during the season for the enjoyment of good food, companionship, music and outstanding speakers from near and far. Occasionally entertainments were put on to raise money for church purposes.

Some suppers were so popular that the hall was not large enough and second sittings were necessary. Usually the meals were served by various circles of the Woman's Association but occasionally the men took on the responsibility. The most noted chef was Mr. J. C. Jaeger.

Listed among the presidents are: A. C. Grant, Douglas B. Jones, Alex Cunningham, Frank Pike, Rodney Pike, R. Wishart and C. Jackson. Frank Pike for one meeting recorded an attendance of 150.

YOUNG MEN'S CLUB

Among the organizations that served Robertson, the Young Men's Club deserves an honored place. Its period of prosperity was from 1929 to 1939. According to general information and records the Club had a ritual and definite rules for its members. It met Sunday morning and Tuesday evening.

The first chief officers were: President, Bob Scott; Secretary, Ted Bishop; Mentor, Mr. Perry Giffin. Other presidents were: Clarence Dowdell, Jim McIntosh, Ed. Woods and Max Martyn.

The Club showed a wide circle of interests and activities including debates, dances, plays, lectures, Bible study and community service. It held itself responsible for the ushering in the church.



Back row, left to right: Mr. W. J. Little, Mrs. A. Penn, Mrs. W. E. Simpson, Mrs. C. McDougall, Mrs. E. A. Deltombe, Mrs. Roseborough, Mrs. Moffatt, Mrs. W. J. Little, Mrs. E. T. Scragg, Mrs. J. H. Sprague, Mrs. E. Leibert, Mrs. Frank Barnhouse, Mr. T. H. Steel. Front row, left to right: Mrs. Wm. Smith, Mrs. M. A. Cole, Mrs. R. S. Dodds, Mrs. T. B. Windross, Mrs. J. W. Bainbridge, Rev. J. W. Bainbridge, Mrs. W. E. Millson, Mrs. I. Jackson, Mrs. S. J. Anderson.

SENIOR FELLOWSHIP GROUP

This group was commenced on October 13, 1955 with three men and four women present under the leadership of Rev. J. W. Bainbridge. The original purpose of the Group was to provide for senior fellowship centred in the Church. At the first meeting it was decided that a Bible Study Course led by Mr. Bainbridge **should** be the centre and main feature of each session. It was decided to meet weekly in the Ladies' Club Room. The following program was tentatively drawn up: (1) Hymn sing. (2) Reading of minutes. (3) Comments arising from the minutes. (4) Discussion of Prayer objectives. (5) Devotional period led by a member other than the presiding minister. (6) Bible Study course led by Rev. J. W. Bainbridge, followed by discussion. (7) Social half-hour including very simple tea.

These meetings continued weekly until the end of May, 1956 terminating with a picnic at the Fort Saskatchewan Agnes Forbes Lodge.

The meetings were resumed at the beginning of October, 1956 and carried on through a second year; then a third year followed, and at the end of February, 1959, 108 weekly meetings had been held, all of which followed the above program.

Throughout the four years the membership has averaged about twenty-five. This group is giving a very real service to the Senior members of Robertson Church and anticipates a further enlarging of its membership.



Back Row, left to right: Gordon Cobb, Douglas Taylor, W. Bevington, Mr. Elniski, Ron Preiss, Vince Walters, Dr. R. D. Smith.
Front Row, left to right: Mrs. R. D. Smith, Mrs. W. Bevington, Mrs. T. J. Nunn, Mrs. R. Preiss, Mrs. Elniski, Mrs. Vince Walters.

ROBERTSON COUPLES' CLUB

In the fall of 1952 Dr. and Mrs. R. Douglas Smith called together a group of married couples to discuss the desirability of having a Married Couples' Club in Robertson Church. The aim of the club was to provide regular monthly meetings where married couples of any age could meet together in the church hall for Christian fellowship and a worship period by its own members.

The need for such a club has been amply demonstrated during the last seven years. The first executive used foresight and wisdom in having a New Year's Eve Frolic where people may join together to usher in the New Year in a Christian atmosphere. The New Year's Eve party has become an annual event. Also, an annual event is the Family Christmas party when the members and their families enjoy a turkey dinner. The club also has a Wiener Roast in September and a Pot Luck Supper in May. The other monthly meetings are varied and interesting. These events have now become traditions within the church, bringing together many people who make lasting friendships. Activities outside the church include curling, sleigh riding, bowling and visiting places of interest. The Club also assists in various enterprises such as Bissell Institute, the church picnic and Christian Family Sunday.

The "Family Album" was produced in 1954. The proceeds from this successful venture were used to purchase a tape recorder for the church. Since then, monies which have accumulated have been used in different projects and overseas missions.

Past Presidents of the Couples' Club are:

Velma and Don Fidler	Gladys and Marwood Brimacombe
Agnes and Ted Emmott	Phyllis and Bert Hanna
Barbara and Tom How	Muriel and Bill Bevington
Marguerite and Fred Seymour	Lorraine and Ron Preiss

OVERSEAS RELIEF

The President of Circle Seven, Mrs. Gordon E. H. Hauff, organized a sewing group in the spring of 1940 to assist the bombed areas of London. Under the joint convenership of Mrs. C. Stewart and Mrs. Hauff these industrious women sent on an average year one hundred quilts and numerous boxes of warm clothing to Dr. Soper's Mission of London and the Salvation Army War Relief.

In 1948 this group merged its efforts with the Overseas Relief Committee which was organized for the purpose of securing and forwarding to Britain, Europe and Asia assistance in money, food and clothing. Among the charter members were Mr. R. L. Sutherland, Chairman; Mrs. A. Penn and Mr. M. E. Collins as Secretary-Treasurer. Eleven years later, Mr. Sutherland still shows the same concern for others as chairman. Mrs. Penn still leads a group of women whose ages are mostly from sixty to ninety. They meet weekly to mend and prepare the clothing for shipment, and Mr. Collins worked indefatigably until his death. He regularly requested the special Communion offering for Overseas Relief.

From time to time various calamities have required our assistance. During 1948 most of the 2,000 pounds of clothing and \$2,400 went to Great Britain. The next year a needy family in Ashmont and one in Edmonton received a share, while the bulk went to the U.N. Appeal for Children and to the Council of Churches.

During 1950 and 1951 food parcels and aid went to the Toronto depot or straight to Britain. By 1953 and 1954 over \$2,000 and over a ton of clothing were going annually to Korea and to other afflicted areas, some of it directly to our missionaries.

One of our 1958 projects was the adoption of a little Greek lad.

All through these years Mr. H. Thomas has been invaluable in the work of packing and shipping.

MEMORIALS AND GIFTS

This Fiftieth Anniversary year seems to be a fitting time to record the various memorials and gifts in Church and Chapel which have been given for the glory of God and in many cases in memory of a loved one.

MEMORIAL WINDOWS IN CHAPEL

To Squadron Leader Rev. J. Gordon Brown, Minister of Robertson 1938-44, killed in Active Service overseas, 1944

Erected by the congregation

In memory of Mrs. George Scott

Erected by the family

In memory of Mrs. (A. S.) Evelyn Dickson

Erected by the Flower Group 1928-54

In memory of Kenneth James Mitchell

Erected by his wife and family

In memory of Pilot Officer Alan Stuart MacDonald,
lost at sea April 21, 1943

Erected by his family

In memory of Flight Lieutenant Hugh Munro Hope,
killed in action Feb. 22, 1945

Erected by his family

Memorial Windows in Narthex in memory of Robert Wells,
M.D.

Erected by Mrs. R. B. Wells

GIFTS TO THE CHURCH

Offering Plates in Church in memory of Mrs. H. E. Hardisty

Donated by Mr. H. E. Hardisty

Original Pulpit Bible

Donated by Rev. D. G. McQueen, D.D., Feb. 10, 1910

Revised Standard Version of Bible in memory of

Mrs. M. E. Collins

Donated by Mr. M. E. Collins

Bible, Bible stand and Collection Plates in Chapel in memory
of Mr. and Mrs. M. E. Collins

Donated by the Collins family

Authorized Version of Bible and Hymn Book for Chapel
Donated by Explorer Group 1954

Pulpit Bible in memory of Mrs. Maude I. Clarke

Two Hundred Dollars in memory of Mrs. Daniel McAfee
Donated by Mr. Daniel McAfee

One Hundred Dollars in memory of Mrs. William D. DeSilva
Presented by Mrs. Nelles V. Buchanan

Five Hundred Dollars from the estate of G. Everett Ellerton

Pulpit Chair in Chapel presented by G. Everett Ellerton

Pulpit Chair in Chapel
Presented by Mr. and Mrs. Alexander Cunningham
and family

Baptismal Font in Chapel
Presented by Anita B. Jones

Baptismal Font in Church in memory of
George Walter Gorman, O.B.E.
Erected by his family

Pulpit Reredos and Chairs in memory of
S/L C. Leonard Sawle, A.F.C.
Presented by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. A. L. Sawle

Primrose Chimes in memory of Honorable P. C. H. Primrose

Communion Table in Chapel
A gift from the estate of Miss Catherine MacKay

Chancel Rail and Reading Desk
Presented by Mr. and Mrs. Douglas B. Jones and family

Chapel Organ in memory of Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Flood
Devoted members of Robertson Church

Lighting Fixtures in Chapel
Presented by Mr. and Mrs. H. S. Craig and family

Exterior Lights on Chapel window
Presented by Dr. and Mrs. R. D. Smith



CANADA

ROLL OF HONOUR 1914 - 1918



CANADA

Captain Clibborn
W. E. Dobson
C. Manning
W. S. McKibbin
Captain Douglas D. McLeod
Bugler M. Rea

*"Greater love hath no man than this that he lay
down his life for his friends." John 15-13.*

John F. Andrews
Robert L. F. Abernethy
William A. Bartleman
H. P. Bowness
J. Gordon Brown
Jack C. Brady
Kenzie J. M. Colvin
George Cormie
F. Dewis
H. Munro Hope
H. W. H. Hare
W. M. Hunt
Frank H. Jones
W. J. Kinnaird
J. A. Maxwell
Mark T. Maveety
Ian B. Macdonald
H. Douglas MacPherson
Allan MacDonald
William J. Nickerson
Donald Porter
Stanley Spallin
D. A. Simpson
Allan Terwillegar
Wm. A. Walkinshaw
Roger Williamson





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